



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
McDOWELL SONORAN PRESEVE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

February 6, 2014

**Florence Ely Nelson Desert Park
8950 E. Pinnacle Peak Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85255**

MINUTES

PRESENT:

James Heitel, Chairman
Fred Klein, Vice Chairman
Marg Nelssen, Commissioner
Robert Frost, Commissioner
Con Englehorn, Commissioner
Mike Milillo, Commissioner
Susan Wheeler, Commissioner

STAFF:

Bill Murphy
Kroy Ekblaw
Scott Hamilton
Claire Miller
Robbin Schweitzer
Liz Hildenbrand
John Loleit

GUESTS:

Sergeant O'Meara
Officer Herbert
Mike Nolan
David Letorna
Lorraine Montory
Howard Myers
Jack McEnroe
David Hay
Mike Mayer
Mike Rigney

Ernie Wieber
Amy Regan
John Holmes
Joan Fudala
Rich Cochran
Carole Burton
Chris Zoll
Mark Powell
Clark Watkin
Melanie Tluczek

Randy Hill
Tanner Hill
Matthew Dodds
BJ Heggli
Ivan Wolfe
Linda Whitehead

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Heitel called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members present as noted above.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT** (Begins at 5:06, approximately 1 minute into the meeting)

Howard Myers proposed a new trail spur between Maverick Trail and the Cholla Mountain Loop Trail and spoke about the need for mitigation on trails where there have been conflicts between mountain bikers and equestrians.

John Holmes emphasized the need to prioritize habitat restoration and maintenance.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** (Begins at 5:13, approximately 8 minutes into the meeting)

Approval of the regular meeting minutes of November 7, 2013

COMMISSIONER MILILLO MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 7, 2013 MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ENGLEHORN, THE MOTION CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0).

5. **MCDOWELL SONROAN CONSERVANCY UPDATE** (Begins at 5:14, approximately 9 minutes into the meeting)

Mike Nolan presented the Flora and Fauna Inventory of the Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve that was put together by the Field Institute. He reviewed MSC activities, including the Steward Program recruitment, patrol expansion to the north trails, construction and maintenance, Pathfinders, and the hike program.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Nolan clarified that trails restoration is happening, but not habitat rebuilding. He noted that an ecological resource plan establishing baseline data is currently being developed.

6. **HUNTING UPDATE** (Begins at 5:20, approximately 15 minutes into the meeting)

- **Status update which includes but is not limited to:**
 - **Current Status - Hunting Flyer**
 - **Feedback from 2013-14 Season**
 - **Preliminary Results of Large Mammal Count**
 - **Discuss 2014-15 Season**
 - **City Council**
 - **Arizona Game & Fish Commission**

John Holmes spoke about having a single point of entry for hunters and requiring them to provide information about where they will be hunting.

Howard Myers suggested that the City work with Game & Fish to remove the trailheads from the hunting guides and/or posting signs informing trail users that there could be hunting activities ongoing in the area.

Kroy Ekblaw gave an update on hunting activities associated with the Preserve, including steps that have been taken to address hunters accessing the Preserve through private property, and hunting registration. He noted that City Council approved an agreement with Game and Fish and the Conservancy to continue large mammal counts for a minimum of five years.

Sergeant O'Meara from Arizona Game & Fish gave a presentation discussing activities of interest in the Preserve including a crime analysis which included calls for emergency service, rescues, vehicle burglaries, and reports of problems with off-leash dogs.

Commission members were given an opportunity to ask questions.

Officer Herbert from Arizona Game & Fish gave a presentation reviewing the game management survey information, which included 2014 large mammal survey results, hunter and harvest data, and the fall hunting regulation recommendations that were set in April.

Commission members were given an opportunity to ask questions.

Mr. Ekblaw noted that Melanie Tluczek with the Field Institute is pursuing grant funding for more detailed radio collar analysis of deer. Should the grant funding not be successful he will recommend that the City work to pursue funding for that equipment.

The Commission took a ten-minute recess.

7. STAFF REPORTS (Begins at 6:10, approximately 1 hour and 5 minutes into the meeting)

David Letorna requested that new trail construction be delayed until a trails design plan is completed.

Lorraine Montory, representing the Desert Foothills Mountain Bike Association, gave an update on recent activities of the Association, including the hiring of a trail consultant to educate the group and aid in providing objective advice to the City. A copy of the consultant's report will be provided to the Commission upon completion.

BJ Heggli stressed the importance of having a comprehensive trail construction plan.

Commission members were given an opportunity following each public speaker's comments.

- **Trail Update**

Liz Hildenbrand recapped the November discussion on sustainable trails and discussed the current trail rating system and the "lessons learned" plan.

Scott Hamilton gave an update on the progress of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the trails project and reviewed the baseline goals for trails development in the Preserve.

- **Boundary Control (Fencing, Gates, Signage)**

Scott Hamilton gave an update on steps taken to control the Preserve boundary, including fencing, boundary signs, and cable barriers.

Discussion ensued regarding the Fountain Hills connection not allowing equestrian users and the Phase 2 trail construction.

- **Land Acquisition Status 2013/2014**

Mr. Ekblaw provided an update on the progress with Parcels 1 and 1A. He explained that he would be proposing to remove the sandy bottom portion of the 1A boundary that overlaps into the floodplain and embankment area of Rawhide Wash. He discussed the potential rezoning, which would aid in the goal of placing layers of protection on the land.

Commission members were given the opportunity to ask questions.

- **Promotion Update**

Bill Murphy reviewed efforts that are being made to promote the Preserve activities, including web links through the City of Scottsdale home page, the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy website, the Parks and Recreation marketing facility reservation guide, Parks and Recreation Leisure Education Brochure, and the Parks and Recreation Preserve Marketing e-newsletter. He provided the Commission with a copy of the contract between the City and the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, highlighting the City's role in advertizing and promotion.

Commission members were given the opportunity to make comments.

8. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS** (Begins at 7:08, approximately 2 hours and 3 minutes into the meeting)

VICE-CHAIR KLEIN NOMINATED JIM HEITEL TO CONTINUE IN THE POSITION AS CHAIR OF THE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION. COMMISSIONER MILILLO SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR HEITEL ABSTAINED.

COMMISSIONER ENGLEHORN NOMINATED FRED KLEIN TO CONTINUE IN THE POSITION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION. CHAIR HEITEL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). VICE-CHAIR KLEIN ABSTAINED.

9. **REVIEW BYLAWS** (Begins at 7:09, approximately 2 hours and 4 minutes into the meeting)

Commission members had no comments on the Bylaws.

10. MSPC 2013 ANNUAL REPORT (Begins at 7:10, approximately 2 hours and 5 minutes into the meeting)

It was the consensus of the Commission to accept the MSPC 2013 Annual Report as presented.

11. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS (Begins at 7:11, approximately 2 hours and 6 minutes into the meeting)

Vice-Chair Klein commented that related to Preserve education and promotion efforts, thought should be given to the fact that the referendum on the Preserve passed with only 54% support and might not have received the same level of support in more recent years.

12. AGENDA ITEMS FOR MARCH 6, 2014 AND REVIEW ITEMS THROUGH JUNE 2014 (Begins at 7:12, approximately 2 hours and 8 minutes into the meeting)

- Financial update
- Funding options and alternatives for future land acquisition, maintenance, education, and public information
- Future interior preserve trail plans

Mr. Ekblaw suggested that the funding options and future interior preserve trails plans could be moved to the April agenda. In addition to the financial update, the agenda will tentatively include the General Plan process, the MFO trail report, promotions, and the short spur trail discussion.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz.